

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN MARCH 2004

Producers mined 1.39 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in March 2004 (table 1). Output was 10% more than that of February 2004, and 37% more than that of March 2003. Synthetic gypsum production was 712,000 metric tons (t) in March 2004 (table 1), which was 7% more than that of February 2004, and 7% more than that of March 2003. Synthetic gypsum production increased over that of 2002, owing to new synthetic-gypsum-sourced wallboard plants that came online in 2003. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. During January through February 2004, synthetic gypsum accounted for 1.33 Mt, or about 25%, of the 5.24 Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 380,000 t (table 2), 11% more than that of February 2004, and 19% less than that of March 2003.

Output of calcined gypsum for March (table 1) was 1.98 Mt, 13% more than that of February 2004, and 18% more than that

of March 2003. Sales of board products were about 3.1 billion square feet (289 million square meters), 19% more than that of February 2004, and 26% more than that of March 2003.

U.S. Government import and export data for March 2004 were not available at the time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in February 2004 were 560,000 t (table 3), 26% less than that of January 2004, and 17% less than that of February 2003. Gypsum wallboard imports, principally from Canada, for February 2004 were 44,000 t, equivalent to 53 million square feet (4.9 million square meters). These imports were 9% less than that of January 2004, and 26% more than those of February 2003. Wallboard exports to 36 countries and territories in February 2004 were 4,900 t, equivalent to 5.9 million square feet (545,000 square meters). These exports were 36% more than those of January 2004, and 17% more than those of February 2003.

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	2004			2003
	March	February	January-March	January-March
Crude:				
Mined ³	1,390,000	1,260,000	4,000,000	3,900,000
Imported ⁴	NA	560,000	NA	1,700,000
Exported ⁴	NA	12,300	NA	74,700
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	712,000	668,000	2,040,000	1,980,000
Total supply	NA	2,480,000	NA	7,510,000
Calcined:				
Produced	1,980,000	1,750,000	5,610,000	5,120,000
Imported ⁶	NA	834	NA	1,360
Exported ⁶	NA	65,800	NA	117,000
Total supply	NA	1,690,000	NA	5,000,000

NA Not available.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

⁴Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁵Reported production only.

⁶Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE^{1, 2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004			2003
	March	February	January-March	January-March
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	247,000	215,000	678,000	815,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	133,000	129,000	388,000	630,000
Total	380,000	344,000	1,070,000	1,450,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	2,600,000	2,180,000	6,970,000	6,350,000
Plaster	15,800	12,800	41,300	81,500
Total	2,610,000	2,190,000	4,150,000	6,430,000
Board products: (Thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	1,900,000	1,610,000	5,140,000	4,630,000
Type X board	933,000	769,000	2,470,000	2,290,000
Other	283,000	237,000	760,000	695,000
Total supply	3,120,000	2,610,000	8,370,000	7,610,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

⁴Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁵One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION¹

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2004			2003
	February	January	January-February	January-February
Argentina	--	--	--	18
Canada	383,000	506,000	889,000	666,000
Dominican Republic	18,000	--	18,000	12,500
Guatemala	--	--	--	18
Mexico	121,000	168,000	290,000	244,000
Spain	37,100	87,300	124,000	111,000
Sweden	--	--	--	2
United Kingdom	--	1	1	--
Total	560,000	761,000	1,320,000	1,030,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
CRUDE GYPSUM IN THE UNITED STATES^{1, 2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2003:				
January	2,090	1,550	555	16
February	1,810	1,340	478	16
March	1,670	1,010	668	12
April	1,990	1,350	663	14
May	1,990	1,410	594	11
June	1,950	1,340	623	12
July	2,240	1,380	875	16
August	2,150	1,320	834	12
September	2,120	1,440	696	15
October	2,210	1,510	713	13
November	2,070	1,310	766	13
December	2,120	1,300	830	17
January-December	24,400	16,300	8,300	167
2004:				
January	2,100	1,350	761	13
February	1,810	1,260	559	12
March	NA	1,390	NA	NA

NA Not available.

¹Excludes synthetic gypsum.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

³Consumption calculated by adding the production and imports shown in this table and subtracting the exports shown in this table. Monthly inventory changes are not included.

⁴Production data are from the semiannual gypsum canvasses of the non-wallboard producers, annual canvass of all producers, and from monthly data furnished by the Gypsum Association from the wallboard producers.

⁵Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGION^{1, 2}

(Thousand square feet)³

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
2004:											
March:											
Lath	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Veneer base	26,700	2,970	8,790	702	9,110	23	52	294	1,720	108	50,500
Sheathing	1,150	4,650	4,800	5,290	15,300	3,130	12,400	6,650	10,000	1,650	65,100
Regular gypsum board	49,000	165,000	255,000	125,000	533,000	130,000	218,000	178,000	217,000	32,200	1,900,000
Type X gypsum board	29,400	90,100	135,000	74,100	151,000	32,800	101,000	113,000	200,000	6,760	933,000
Predecorated board	293	689	1,100	577	1,380	515	923	446	739	46	6,700
5/16 Mobile home board	--	946	3,430	--	9,710	12,100	6,160	901	1,010	--	34,200
Water/moisture resistant board	6,180	21,900	18,200	7,100	26,800	4,570	12,100	9,560	16,900	3,470	127,000
Total	113,000	287,000	427,000	213,000	746,000	183,000	351,000	308,000	448,000	44,200	3,120,000
January- March:											
Lath	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Veneer base	67,500	8,520	24,600	2,500	27,500	65	185	834	4,660	242	137,000
Sheathing	3,650	11,000	12,300	15,300	38,800	7,790	34,800	17,900	24,700	3,820	170,000
Regular gypsum board	130,000	437,000	678,000	351,000	1,440,000	357,000	621,000	480,000	557,000	87,900	5,140,000
Type X gypsum board	75,300	240,000	358,000	200,000	403,000	87,100	273,000	294,000	518,000	22,100	2,470,000
Predecorated board	778	1,770	2,760	1,530	3,750	1,210	2,390	1,130	1,910	150	17,400
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,660	12,000	--	26,900	32,100	18,900	2,430	2,930	36	97,900
Water/moisture resistant board	16,000	58,200	48,000	20,100	70,700	13,600	33,600	26,200	44,100	9,430	340,000
Total	293,000	760,000	1,140,000	590,000	2,010,000	499,000	984,000	823,000	1,150,000	124,000	8,370,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals show

²Sales region equivalent to U.S. Census Bureau Geographic Division as follows: New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT); Middle Atlantic (NJ, NY, PA); East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI); West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); South Atlantic (DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV); East South Central (AL, KY, MS, TN); West South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX); Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY); Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).

³One square meter equals 10.78 square feet

Source: Gypsum Association.